

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W

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R 042000Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4384

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 0756

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, AR

SUBJECT: LABOR AND MILITARY REACTION TO CABINET CHANGES

REF: BUENOS AIRES 0627

1. CGT SOURCES ADVISED LABATT THAT LABOR'S REACTION TO TODAY'S (FEBRUARY 4) CABINET CHANGES IS AT BEST "LUKEWARM." THE NEW MINLABOR, MIGUEL UNAMUNO, SUB-SECGEN OF BANK WORKERS ASSOCIATION (AB) IS CONSIDERED A FAR MORE CAPABLE PERSON THAN OUTGOING MINLABOR RUCKAUF. HE IS AN INTIMATE OF UOM LEADER LORENZO MIGUEL, AND IS EXPECTED TO FOLLOW HIS LEAD UNQUESTIONINGLY. HOWEVER, DESPITE MIGUEL'S "VICTORY" IN THE SELECTION OF UNAMUNO, HE HAS LOST PUBLIC FACE AND IS "VERY UNHAPPY" THAT PRESIDENT PERON MADE CHANGES AFTER ASSURING HIM RECENTLY THAT NO FURTHER CHANGES WOULD BE MADE. FURTHER, NEW MINECONOMY MONDELLI IS AN UNKNOWN INsofar AS LABOR IS CONCERNED AND REPORTEDLY WAS IMPOSED AGAINST THEIR WISHES. LABOR EXPECTS TO HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME IN ITS DEALINGS WITH HIM. HOWEVER, LABOR SOURCES DO NOT EXPECT HIM TO LAST LONG IN THE JOB.

2. CONTENTS OF LABOR'S "SECRET" COMMUNIQUE TO PRESIDENT PERON (REFTEL), IN WHICH IT REPORTEDLY EXPRESSES ITS DISAGREEMENT WITH ACTIVITIES OF HER ADVISORS, HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED. HOWEVER, UNCONFIRMED REPORTS INDICATE THAT MIGUEL SUPPORTED CGT SECGEN HERRERAS' HARD-LINE POSITION IN OPPOSITION TO LASTIRI AND

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GONZALEZ. AS INDICATION OF LABOR'S DISGUST WITH SITUATION, CGT

AND 62 ORGANIZATIONS ARE CONSIDERING HAVING ALL LABOR LEADERS SUBMIT RESIGNATIONS FROM GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN ON RESIGNATIONS, BUT CGT SOURCES TOLD LABATT THAT IF IT SHOULD OCCUR IT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BRING TO A HEAD LABOR DISPUTE WITH PRESIDENT'S ADVISORS. ANOTHER MEASURE OF LABOR'S DISGUST WAS MIGUEL'S FAILURE, "FOR HEALTH REAONS," TO KEEP FEBRUARY 2 APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT. PRESS SPECULATION THAT LABOR WAS NOW "BIDING TIME" UNTIL CONDITIONS WERE MORE APPROPRIATE BEFORE BRINGING DISPUTE TO A HEAD WAS CONFIRMED BY SAME CGT SOURCES.

3. COMMENT. ON AGAIN, OFF AGAIN DISPUTE BETWEEN MIGUEL AND HERRERAS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SET ASIDE ONCE AGAIN AS LABOR CONFRONTS THREAT TO ITS INTERESTS. SOLIDARITY IS ONCE AGAIN THE THEME.

4. ONE WELL-PLACED PERONIST SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF TODAY THAT SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS HAD BEEN INFORMED BY JULIO GONZALEZ OF MRS. PERON'S INTENTION TO OUST CAFIERO AND HAD GIVEN THEIR APPROVAL. THIS WOULD NOT BE AT ALL SURPRISING FOR MOVE DID INDEED PLAY DIRECTLY INTO HANDS OF MILITARY IN AT LEAST TWO WAYS. FIRST, IT SERVED TO DRIVE DEEPER THE WEDGE BETWEEN LABOR AND GOVT (AND THIS IS A MAJOR PLUS FOR THE MILITARY IF THEY ARE THINKING OF OVERTHROWING LATTER). SECONDLY, IT CONTRIBUTES TO SLIDE TOWARD ECONOMIC CHAOS, OR AT LEAST TO CONDITIONS SUFFICIENTLY CHAOTIC TO JUSTIFY MILITARY INTERVENTION. PERONIST SOURCE COMMENTED IN DISGUST THAT ANY MORE SUCH POLITICAL BLUNDERS AND MRS. PERON WILL NOT ONLY HAVE OPENED DOORS TO MILITARY, "SHE WILL HAVE LED THEM BY THE HAND INTO THE HALLS OF POWER."  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, MILITARY PERSONNEL, REORGANIZATIONS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BUENOS00756  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760043-0608  
**From:** BUENOS AIRES  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760284/aaaacwce.tel  
**Line Count:** 92  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 BUENOS AIRES 627  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LABOR AND MILITARY REACTION TO CABINET CHANGES  
**TAGS:** ELAB, PINT, AR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006